

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

June 26, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:30

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Neil McIver
Pianist	Julie Wilkins
First sermon	Bernie Monsalvo
Teen class—Classroom #1	Melodee Overton
Bridges class—Library	Carol Bald
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Candace Self
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Canceled
Second sermon	Stan West

Quick takes

1. Thank you—The congregation thanks Scott and Holli Mischnick (and their crew) for coordinating the senior-citizen meal last Saturday.
2. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Ron Feaker is giving a sermon in Waco and Dave Havir is giving a sermon in Gobles, Mich. (Mr. Havir is also officiating at a wedding this weekend.)
3. Election phase concludes today at 5:00 p.m.—Members of the congregation are invited to participate in the election phase by filling out a ballot.
4. Pool party tomorrow—There is a pool party scheduled at the home of Don and Michele Mischnick tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
5. Potluck meal next Sabbath—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service next Sabbath.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Degeneration of Democracy" by Thomas Sowell.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Can the United States Help Lead the Way?" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's collection by Dave Havir has eight pages.
9. Last week's Bible study—On Wednesday, June 23, Bernie Monsalvo gave a Bible study titled "1 Peter 2 and 3."

Prayer Updates

Melba Evers of Albertville, Ala. (mother of **Jeannie Roden**), is scheduled for triple-bypass heart surgery on July 14. Two arteries are 80 percent blocked, one artery is 95 percent blocked, and the mitral valve needs to be replaced.

In the June 5 bulletin, we mentioned that **Dave Havir** was staying in the Cincinnati area that weekend with **Glen** and **Rebecca Hollon**, who had a court date scheduled for Friday, June 4, to seek permanent custody of their grandson **Connor**. Since Mr. Havir got intricately involved with family matters back in Pennsylvania, he did not think to pass along the news that the court granted the Hollons full custody on that Friday. Needless to say, there was much celebration at the Hollon home on both Friday and Saturday evenings. They appreciate all your prayers.

Willa Lea Kelley of Grantsville, W.Va. (mother of **Kathy Kerby**), went back to the hospital on Tuesday with "double pneumonia." She and her husband, **Don**, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday.

Here are excerpts from a report on Thursday by **Allie Dart** concerning her husband, **Ron**: "After almost 13 weeks he's rid of all tubes. The peg feeding tube came out [on Tuesday] since he is now eating so well. He only weighed 189.6 pounds yesterday. In his physical rehab yesterday [Wednesday], Ron probably walked 500 or more feet at one time using the walker and without resting."

New prayer requests

Stan West requests prayers for his father, **Ben West**, who is scheduled to receive the results of a biopsy on Wednesday.

Scott Sherrod and **Marissa Hunt** of Gobles, Mich. (who are scheduled to be married later today), were involved in an automobile accident on Friday, June 18. Although the car flipped over three times, both are doing fine.

Angie Geddes of Tyler shattered her right elbow three weeks ago. The doctor waited one week for the swelling to subside before performing an operation. She entered a rehab facility in Tyler and is expected to be there for another seven to 10 days.

Fred Patton of the local United congregation has been diagnosed with coronary artery disease. He was scheduled for an angioplasty yesterday.

Richard Anderson of Savannah, Ga., was in a motorcycle accident on Sunday. As of Wednesday, he remained unconscious.

Pete Peden of Tyler went into Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler on Thursday, June 17. He had a pacemaker installed and also had his gall bladder removed. He went home on Tuesday.

Sue Mayfield of Jacksonville (employee of the Church of God International in Tyler) died on Tuesday, June 15, after a long battle with cancer. Please remember the family in your prayers.

“Degeneration of Democracy”

Mr. Sowell is a syndicated columnist for *Jewish World Review*. His column dated June 22, 2010, is reprinted here from jewishworldreview.com. As reprinted, this article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of June 26-27, 2010.

By Thomas Sowell

STANFORD, Calif.—When Adolf Hitler was building up the Nazi movement in the 1920s, leading up to his taking power in the 1930s, he deliberately sought to activate people who did not normally pay much attention to politics. Such people were a valuable addition to his political base, since they were particularly susceptible to Hitler’s rhetoric and had far less basis for questioning his assumptions or his conclusions.

“Useful idiots” was the term supposedly coined by V.I. Lenin to describe similarly unthinking supporters of his dictatorship in the Soviet Union.

Put differently, a democracy needs informed citizens if it is to thrive, or ultimately even survive. In our times, American democracy is being dismantled, piece by piece, before our very eyes by the current administration in Washington, and few people seem to be concerned about it.

The president’s poll numbers are going down because increasing numbers of people disagree with particular policies of his, but the damage being done to the fundamental structure of this nation goes far beyond particular counterproductive policies.

Just where in the Constitution of the United States does it say that a president has the authority to extract vast sums of money from a private enterprise and distribute it as he sees fit to whomever he deems worthy of compensation? Nowhere.

And yet that is precisely what is happening with a \$20 billion fund to be provided by BP to compensate people harmed by their oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Many among the public and in the media may think that the issue is simply whether BP’s oil spill has damaged many people, who ought to be compensated. But our government is supposed to be “a government of laws and not of men.”

If our laws and our institutions determine that BP ought to pay \$20 billion—or \$50 bil-

lion or \$100 billion—then so be it.

But the Constitution says that private property is not to be confiscated by the government without “due process of law.” Technically, it has not been confiscated by Barack Obama, but that is a distinction without a difference.

With vastly expanded powers of government available at the discretion of politicians and bureaucrats, private individuals and organizations can be forced into accepting the imposition of powers that were never granted to the government by the Constitution.

If you believe that the end justifies the means, then you don’t believe in Constitutional government. And, without Constitutional government, freedom cannot endure. There will always be a “crisis”—which, as the president’s chief of staff has said, cannot be allowed to “go to waste” as an opportunity to expand the government’s power.

That power will of course not be confined to BP or to the particular period of crisis that gave rise to the use of that power, much less to the particular issues.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt arbitrarily took the United States off the gold standard, he cited a law passed during the First World War to prevent trading with the country’s wartime enemies. But there was no war when FDR ended the gold standard’s restrictions on the printing of money.

At about the same time, during the worldwide Great Depression, the German Reichstag passed a law “for the relief of the German people.” That law gave Hitler dictatorial powers that were used for things going far beyond the relief of the German people—indeed, powers that ultimately brought a rain of destruction down on the German people and on others.

If the agreement with BP was an isolated event, perhaps we might hope that it would not be a precedent. But there is nothing isolated about it. The man appointed by Presi-

dent Obama to dispense BP's money as the administration sees fit, to whomever it sees fit, is only the latest in a long line of presidentially appointed "czars" controlling different parts of the economy, without even having to be confirmed by the Senate, as Cabinet mem-

bers are. Those who cannot see beyond the immediate events to the issues of arbitrary power—versus the rule of law and the preservation of freedom—are the "useful idiots" of our time.

But useful to whom?

"Eye on the World"

These two short news items, compiled by Dave Havir, are from the "Eye on the World" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, www.churchofgodbigandy.com. They were posted for the weekend of June 26–27.

A quotation that has been widely circulated under the title "Prince of Fools" that criticizes both Barack Obama and the electorate who voted for him has been posted on various Web sites.

The quote is generally attributed to "an article appearing in the Czech Republic as published in the *Prager Zeitung* on April 28, 2010."

However the quote was originally posted at reuters.com on Jan. 27, 2010. It appeared as a comment under an article titled "Soros Says Obama Bank Levy Premature, Backs Other Plans" and datelined Davos, Switzerland.

The short article said: "Billionaire financier George Soros said on Wednesday [January 27] U.S. President Barack Obama's plan to impose a tax on large banks was premature and his wider proposals to rein in banks' activities may not go far enough."

The first reader comment after the article was posted by O2BNTEXAS on Jan. 27, 2010, at 10:51 a.m. EST.

His famous quote was: "The danger to America is not Barack Obama but a citizenry capable of entrusting a man like him with the Presidency.

"It will be far easier to limit and undo the follies of an Obama presidency than to restore the necessary common sense and good judgment to a depraved electorate willing to have such a man for their president.

"The problem is much deeper and far more serious than Mr. Obama, who is a mere symptom of what ails America. Blaming the prince of the fools should not blind anyone to the vast confederacy of fools that made him their prince.

"The Republic can survive a Barack Obama, who is, after all, merely a fool. It is less likely to survive a multitude of fools such as those who made him their president."

A YouTube message was posted at thefoxnation.com on June 21, 2010, that brought a strong reaction from critics because the message openly offered government services to illegal immigrants. The 30-second message with background music was spoken by Department of Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis.

Here is what she said: "You work hard and you have the right to be paid fairly. I'm U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. And it is a serious problem when workers in this country are not being paid every cent they earn. Remember, every worker in America has the right to be paid fairly, whether documented or not.

"So call us—it is free and confidential—at 1-866-487-9243. We can help."

Eye on the World comment: Did you notice that Hilda Solis is seeking to help illegal immigrants?

Don't we want representatives of the U.S. government to abide by the law of the land?

The problem is not just with the Department of Labor.

The Justice Department of the Obama administration is preparing to fight a state law that is a toned-down version of a federal law that already exists.

Is the department ignorant of the law? Or does it have a higher vision to overturn the federal law as well?